

Findings from...

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study was produced by the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC).

**Table U:
Amount of Indoor and Outdoor Space Required in
Centers in 2005**

State	Indoor Space	Outdoor Space	
	Required Amount Per Child	Required Amount Per Child	Total Amount Required
Alabama	32 square feet	60 square feet	NR
Alaska	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Arizona	25 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Arkansas	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
California	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Colorado*	30 square feet	75 square feet	1,500 square feet
Connecticut	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Delaware*	35 square feet	50 square feet	NR
District of Columbia	35 square feet	60 square feet	NR
Florida*	35 square feet	45 square feet	NR
Georgia*	35 square feet	100 square feet	NR
Hawaii*	35 square feet	NR	NR
Idaho	NL	NL	NL
Illinois*	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Indiana	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR

Findings from the 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

State	Indoor Space	Outdoor Space	
	Required Amount Per Child	Required Amount Per Child	Total Amount Required
Iowa*	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Kansas*	35 square feet	75 square feet	750 square feet
Kentucky*	35 square feet	60 square feet	NR
Louisiana*	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Maine*	35 square feet	NR	NR
Maryland	35 square feet	NR	NR
Massachusetts	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Michigan	35 square feet	NR	1,200 square feet
Minnesota	35 square feet	75 square feet	1,500 square feet
Mississippi*	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Missouri*	35 square feet	75 square feet	750 square feet
Montana	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Nebraska*	35 square feet	50 square feet	NR
Nevada	35 square feet	37.5 square feet	NR
New Hampshire*	35 square feet	50 square feet	NR
New Jersey*	35 square feet	NR	150 square feet
New Mexico	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
New York*	35 square feet	NR	NR
North Carolina*	25 square feet	75 square feet	NR
North Dakota	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Ohio	35 square feet	60 square feet	NR
Oklahoma*	35 square feet	75 square feet	1,800 square feet
Oregon*	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR

Findings from the 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

State	Indoor Space	Outdoor Space	
	Required Amount Per Child	Required Amount Per Child	Total Amount Required
Pennsylvania*	40 square feet	65 square feet	NR
Rhode Island	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
South Carolina	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
South Dakota	35 square feet	50 square feet	NR
Tennessee	30 square feet	50 square feet	NR
Texas	30 square feet	80 square feet	NR
Utah*	35 square feet	40 square feet	NR
Vermont	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Virginia	25 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Washington	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
West Virginia	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR
Wisconsin*	35 square feet	75 square feet	750 square feet
Wyoming	35 square feet	75 square feet	NR

Key:

NL=Facility not licensed

NR=Not required

***Notes:**

Colorado: A shaded area in the fenced play area of at least 150 square feet must be provided by means of trees or other cover to guard children against the hazards of excessive sun and heat. In the infant nursery, the outdoor play area must be a minimum of 400 square feet.

Delaware: When a center can demonstrate that the outdoor space requirement cannot be met, the center must provide a minimum of 700 square feet of open, accessible indoor play space suitable for gross motor activity.

Florida: For licensed urban child care facilities, an additional minimum of 45 square feet of usable indoor play space for 25 percent of the licensed capacity shall be substituted for outdoor play space. Urban child care facilities must provide this additional indoor space with equipment that allows for physical activity appropriate for the age of the children.

Findings from the 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

Georgia: The requirement of 100 square feet per child of outdoor space applies to the number of children playing outdoors at one time or one-third of the licensed capacity.

Hawaii: The amount of outdoor space required is based on the number of children as follows:

- 1) 720 square feet for 6 children plus 70 square feet per child thereafter up through 10.
- 2) 1,065 square feet for 11 children plus 65 square feet per child thereafter up through 30.
- 3) 2,360 square feet for 31 children plus 60 square feet per child thereafter up through 50.
- 4) 3,555 square feet for 51 children plus 55 square feet per child thereafter up through 100.
- 5) 6,295 square feet for 101 children plus 45 square feet per child thereafter.

Illinois: The outdoor play area shall accommodate 25 percent of the licensed capacity at any one time.

Iowa: In rooms where floor space occupied by cribs is counted as useable floor space, there shall be 40 square feet of floor space per child. The outdoor play area shall accommodate 30 percent of enrollment capacity.

Kansas: The outdoor play area shall accommodate one-half of enrollment capacity, or be a minimum of 750 square feet, whichever is greater.

Kentucky: If a child care facility does not have access to an outdoor play area, an indoor space shall be used as a play area. This area must be well-ventilated and heated and should also have the following:

- 1) A minimum of 60 square feet per child, separate from and in addition to the 35 square feet minimum; and
- 2) Gross motor equipment.

Louisiana: The outdoor play area shall accommodate at least one-half of licensed capacity.

Maine: Centers shall have sufficient outdoor space for the safe play of all children.

Mississippi: If there is less than 75 square feet of accessible outdoor playground space per child, an indoor playground area that meets the 75-square-foot-per-child requirement may be used if it provides for types of activities equivalent to those performed in an outdoor playground area.

Missouri: The outdoor play area shall accommodate one-third of licensed capacity.

Nebraska: The outdoor play area shall accommodate at least 25 percent of licensed capacity.

New Hampshire: Center-based programs may operate with 50 square feet of outdoor play area per child for one-third of the program's license capacity, provided that no more than one-third of the license capacity is on the playground at one time.

New Jersey: When more than five children are using an outdoor space at one time, there shall be 30 square feet of net outdoor space for each additional child in addition to the required minimum of 150 square feet. If a center can demonstrate that it cannot meet the outdoor space requirement, the center shall provide, in addition to space for play rooms, a minimum of 150 square feet of net indoor floor space. When more than five children are using such space at one time, there shall be 30 square feet of net indoor floor space for each additional child in addition to the minimum of 150 square feet. The indoor floor space may be

Findings from the 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

either on the site of the center or at another nearby indoor facility, such as a gymnasium, exercise room, or other recreational facility.

New York: Readily accessible outdoor play space that is adequate for active play must be provided.

North Carolina: When a center is licensed for 30 or more children, there shall be 75 square feet per child of outdoor play area for at least one-half of the total number for which the center is licensed, provided that the minimum amount of space on the outdoor play area shall be enough to accommodate at least 30 children.

Oklahoma: When a center is licensed for 24 or more children, there must be 75 square feet of outdoor play space per child for at least one-third of the total number for which the center is licensed, provided that the minimum amount of outdoor space accommodates 24 children, which is 1,800 square feet.

Oregon: The outdoor play area shall accommodate one-third of licensed capacity.

Pennsylvania: Indoor child care space is measured within permanent stationary partitions or walls. The number of children allowed in a space is determined by dividing the total square feet in a space by 40. Indoor space for gross motor activity can be used to meet the outdoor space requirement.

Utah: The outdoor play area shall accommodate at least 33 percent of licensed capacity.

Wisconsin: The requirement of 75 square feet of outdoor space is for children ages 2 or older. There should be at least 35 square feet of outdoor play space for each child younger than 2 years of age. All outdoor space must accommodate at least one-third of licensed capacity. The number of children younger than 1 year need not be included for purposes of computing the minimum required outdoor play space if the center provides spaces in wheeled vehicles, such as strollers and wagons, equal to the number of children younger than 1 year.